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REMARKS

The claims have been rejected for reasons presented in the Decision on Appeal in the parent application, Serial No. 08/996,567. Specifically, the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Berry in view of Markl, alone or in combination with Tigwell and Colin. That rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The board found that Claims 1, 5 and 11 of the parent application, which correspond to Claims 1, 5 and 8 of this application, were met in part by Berry:

Because the speakers 312 and the lamps 310 are in parallel with each other as are alarms A and S of appellants, we find that the change of voltage in Berry, III will result in the alarms being activated in the same fashion in Berry, III as appellants' alarms A and S. Thus, because Berry, III provides synchronization between the audible and visual alarms (albeit, with no synchronization among the visual alarms) we find that Berry, III discloses "synchronizing audible alarms and visible strobes" as broadly recited in Claim 1. Moreover, we find that Berry, III discloses "changing the voltage on the power lines to control timing of the audible alarms and visual strobes" because Berry, III discloses activating the audible alarms and visual alarms upon a change in voltage potential across the terminals E and F during an alarm condition. The timing is controlled because the audible and visual alarms are turned on in response to a change in voltage polarity across terminals E and F.

Thus, the Board found that mere activation of the audible and visual alarms, by applying power to the power lines, met the invention broadly recited in Claims 1, 5 and 11. Those claims were amended in filing this application by reciting that timing of audible and visual alarms is controlled by repeatedly changing the voltage in the power lines after the alarms and strobes have been powered. That is, where the claims of the parent were sufficiently broad that the Board was able to find synchronization of the audible and visual alarms by simultaneous activation of the two, the present claims go on to recite that after power is applied, that is, after activation, the timing of the audible alarms and visual strobes is controlled by repeatedly changing the voltage. That feature was not in the original claims and was thus not addressed by the Board. Further, that feature cannot be found in Berry.

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With respect to Markl, the Board stated that "because Markl teaches the use of synchronized flashing lights to warn motorists of road emergencies, we find that Markl is related to an alarm system." The present claims have been amended to limit them to a building alarm system. There is no suggestion in Markl of applying his flashing strobes to a building alarm system, and there is no suggestion of combining the Berry and Markl references in a building alarm system. Accordingly, this amendment of the claims further distinguishes the Board decision and renders the claims patentable.

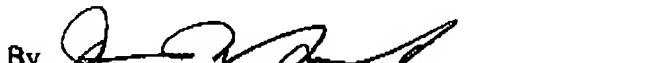
Claim 3 has been amended, and Claims 11 and 12 have been added, to include the limitation that the Board found to be not disclosed by the prior art at page 18 of the Decision, that is, "that the capacitor is charged 'to a firing voltage without activating the strobe,' ..." Accordingly, those claims should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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